

Appl. No.: 10/530,663
Amd. Date May 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated: March 31, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application and for indicating that claims 1-7 and 9 contain allowable subject matter.

The Examiner failed to address claim 10 in the Office action. Claim 10 was added in a preliminary amendment filed with the application on April 6, 2005.

The Examiner stated in the Office action that “the listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement” and that “unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.” Applicants timely filed an information disclosure statement on form PTO-1449 on April 28, 2005. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed thereon. A copy of the April 28, 2005 information disclosure statement is included with this Office action response, for the Examiner’s convenience.

The Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure. The abstract has been amended.

The Examiner objected to claim 8 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being an improper multiple dependent claim. Claim 8 was amended in the preliminary amendment of April 6, 2005. Previously presented claim 8 depends from only claim 5.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-7 and 9 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant does not acquiesce to any inference or presumption drawn from the Examiner's statement regarding the reasons for allowance.

As stated above, the Examiner failed to address claim 10. Claim 10 depends from claim 6 and, therefore, is also allowable.

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If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 38052.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: Brad C. Spencer

Brad C. Spencer, Reg. No. 57076

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

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